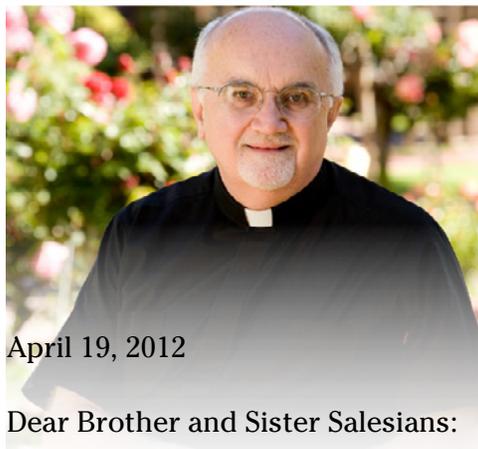




INTOUCH

April 19
2012

USA West Province Newsletter • Building Bridges Between Communities



April 19, 2012

Dear Brother and Sister Salesians:

I would like to bring everyone up to date on some new and exciting developments at Don Bosco Hall in Berkeley. Fr. John Roche reported on these at the directors and pastors meeting the day after Province Day.

It has become increasingly clearer as the years go on that our traditional year long Institute of Salesian Spirituality (ISS) program was becoming quite difficult if not impossible to sustain in that form. The English speaking provinces of the Salesian world found it an excellent program, but too long for confreres to be away, too expensive, too complicated and demanding to secure student visas. So under the leadership of Fr. John Roche and his team, as well as with the constant and practical support both from the formation department in Rome and from the Rector Major himself, a new array of offerings and courses are on the table. I list them here in brief. There is so much more that could and should be said about each of them. So consider what I write here just a basic introduction to the new Don

Bosco Hall. Our Province Organic Plan (POP) in the section called Fundamental Options for Specific Works and Presences, Houses of Formation, # 7 on page 21 gives a context.

Three Month Experiences

Fall: Don Bosco and Salesian Spirituality Foundations

Winter: Scripture and the Person of Christ in Salesian Spirituality

Summer: Salesian Educational Methodology

Towards a Masters Degree in Theology with Salesian Concentrations

With further courses taken at the Dominican School of Philosophy and Theology, the traditional year long ISS program, as well as the three month experiences mentioned above, will offer students a path towards obtaining a Masters Degree with those courses comprising a fully accredited Salesian concentration.

National Certification in Youth Ministry

The Center for Ministry Development is collaborating with us to offer the National Certification in Youth Ministry over two summer sessions. The credit for these courses may also be applied to the Masters Degree through the Dominican School

of Philosophy and Theology described above. Don Bosco Hall in Berkeley will now become one of the few locations in all of California where youth ministers may receive this national certification.

As I mentioned, this is a very brief survey. Much more information is available from Don Bosco Hall and Fr. John Roche (jrochesdb@gmail.com). These developments are really something to be proud of. I believe they will position Don Bosco Hall to continue offering excellent programs of spirituality, study, and ongoing formation for the entire English speaking Salesian world long into the future.

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Timothy C. Ploch, SDB
Provincial

Provincial's Calendar

April 2012

- 19 Office Day
- 20 St John Bosco High School Braves Gala
- 21-25 Travel and Office Days
- 26 Meeting with Bishop Garcia, Monterey
- 27-30 Visitation, Sts. Peter and Paul, San Francisco

May 2012

- 1 Visitation, Sts. Peter and Paul, San Francisco
- 2 Provincial Council Meeting, San Francisco
- 3 Office Day

Movimiento Juvenil Salesiano

(MJS) - St. Mary's Parish

What is MJS? Well, this question and how we are part of a worldwide movement were some of the questions that the youth leaders at St. Mary's were trying to understand. Fortunately, a Salesian in Berkeley provided the answer. I met Fr. Alejandro Rodriguez two years ago and just recently we started talking about the need to educate our youth to a global perspective of what it means to be part of the MJS (SYM). To tell you the least, this weekend was an aha moment for us!

The twenty most important youth and adult leaders in our parish started on Friday by going back to our roots, getting to know Don Bosco, his thinking, his values and his method and finally his mission. We really saw Don Bosco with new eyes.

On Saturday our task was to go back to the basic but most important five elements of what it is to be Salesian and what it is to think and do like Don Bosco. After analyzing our work, finding what we needed to adjust and planning, we learned that we have to go back and start from the fundamentals, re-structuring our work with the young and promoting the Salesian Youth Movement. This weekend was a new learning experience, thanks to Fr. Alex, who took the time to come and teach us like Don Bosco.



InTouch Provincial Newsletter

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A Retreat to Review Don Bosco Net

By Julieta Contreras

This past weekend, April 14th and 15th, the province Young Adult Communications Team went for a short retreat in the San Bernardino mountains to reflect on the prayer blog they helped create: **Don Bosco Net**. The members of the team present were Christian Alvarez, Chris Beltran, Julieta Contreras, Armando Garcia, Marc Meehan, Xochil Perez and Isabelle Plascencia. Judy Alvarez, Province Delegate for Social Communication, facilitated the retreat along with her husband, Mike Alvarez, as guest presenter.



Young Adult Communications Team: (Front Row, L to R) Marc Meehan, Chris Beltran; (Back Row, L to R) Xochil Perez, Armando Garcia, Christian Alvarez, Julieta Contreras, Isabelle Plascencia, Judy Alvarez. (Unable to attend: Giovanni Fernandez, Carlos Sousa, Teresa Alvarez and Joey Zarate)

Each of us have worked on this project hoping to be like Don Bosco, meeting the young where they spend their time, which these days is often on the internet. We hoped to provide a place where they can grow in their faith and also contribute in a very unique way to the project. In fact, a main purpose of the blog was to include the voices of youth from different schools and parishes.

The theme of the retreat was "Heaven on Earth," and the goal was to consider what heaven looks like on earth and how best



to help others discover that in their lives. If the internet is like the world: busy and cluttered with misleading information being thrust at you, then a blog where there is peace, unity and the word of God, is the heaven on earth of the internet.

The retreat focused on the progress of the blog so far, thinking of what could be changed or made better. The blog has been in the pilot stage throughout this Lent and although it has been great, we are still learning and working with what we know about the expectations of youth for the websites they visit and how to adapt and make the best impact in the media culture.

One of our biggest problems is that social media takes up enormous amounts of time and energy to manage effectively and to produce good content, both hard to achieve with the hecticness of life. What works in our favor is that we have

many willing hands to help balance the weight of the project and people with different skill sets that can contribute to the various tasks. For example, Chris Beltran is a great organizer and has moved and directed many students to contribute content, and Marc Meehan, who is good with computers, is lending a hand with the more technical aspects.

One of the most important things that took place at the retreat was the recommitment to the project that each of us vowed. We all said we are passionate about reaching youth and know that this is a great avenue through which to do it. Though many of us are busy beyond belief with work and school, we each agreed we would do our part to help this web space flourish.

Pope Benedict urges us to occupy social media and use it to evangelize. We are only doing what we can to follow his directive.

You can visit Don Bosco Net at <http://donbosconet.tumblr.com/>



2012 BUSY PERSON'S RETREAT

Prayer and Spiritual Direction

April 22-26, 2012

A Salesian Family Event | Sponsored by the Salesian Vocation Office



Do You...

Need time out from your busy schedule?

Desire an opportunity to reflect on your life and where you are going?

Want to grow in your prayer life?

If you identify with any of these statements then this retreat is for you.

The Retreat format will include:

- 30 minutes of daily meditation (mandatory for the experience)
- 30 minutes of daily spiritual direction (mandatory for the experience)
- 30 minutes of daily celebration of mass (if your schedule permits)
- Since this is a “retreat” for those with a “busy” schedule, you can arrange your daily appointment with your spiritual director / directress when we gather to begin on Sunday evening. Appointments will be available at St. Dominic Savio and St. Joseph’s Retreat Center.

St. Dominic Savio Church

Sunday, April 22 @ 5:30 pm (mandatory gathering) through
Thursday, April 26 @ 6:30 p.m. (a concluding mass and light supper)

This event is free of charge but donation is accepted.

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For more information or to make a reservation, contact Fr. Chinh Nguyen, SDB:

Email: info@salesianvocation.org | Phone: (626) 688-2939 or

St. Joseph Retreat Center: (626) 280-8622

Sewer Line Replacement

By Bro. Joseph Lockwood, SDB

The sewer pipe for the residence building at De Sales Hall is being replaced, because the tree roots broke the terra cotta sewer pipe and raw sewage was leaking into the ground.

The 7 feet deep sewer pipe trench was dug by hand. Thank God that the soil is sandy and easy to dig. But it is still a big job. The plumbers, Guarantee Services from La Mirada, followed the old terra cotta sewer pipe from where it entered the house and ended at the City lateral (main sewer line) on Bellflower Blvd. One of the obstacles in the way was the planter with the light pole in the front of the house. The men tunneled under it to run the new ABS (Acrylonitrile butadiene styrene) sewer pipe. By the City's lateral, the plumbers installed a sewer clean out so that the sewer line can be snaked out in case of a sewage blockage.

While this sewer pipe was being replaced, the question came up about the soundness of the sewer pipe from the hall building. It was decided that that sewer line needed to be investigated for tree roots, etc. This will be done by opening the sewer line in front of the building and running a camera through the pipe taking pictures of the interior of the pipe. If everything is

fine and no root problems are found, the pipe will be left as is. But if there are problems, the plumbers will replace the pipe and provide for another sewer cleanout.

During the Province Days, I heard the mumbling: "When will we get out of the elevator pit?" Well, last week the contractor poured elevator pit walls and the elevator footing using 4 yards of concrete. The footing will connect the elevator structure to the existing hall building. The concrete forms will be stripped and the dirt back filled and compacted. Once this happens the drilling auger will be able to drill the cylinder plunger.

This past week the Los County Fire Department approved the plan for the fire alarms and smoke detectors. The

fire alarm contractor, United Systems, began to rough in the electrical boxes for the detectors and the fire alarm pull boxes.

All of the existing interior doors have been refinished and are ready to be re-hung.



The plumber tunneling under the planter.



The broken sewer pipe from the house



Pouring the elevator pit walls and footings



Carpenter tying the steel footing dowels for the steel columns canopy